

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Bracalente Mfg. Co.

Manufacturers Resource Center

Bracalente Reduces Set-up Times and Increases Productivity

Client Profile:

Bracalente Manufacturing Company is a leader in precision machined parts providing contract manufacturing solutions to world-class customers in the medical, recreation, hardware, agricultural and specialty markets. The company, located in Trumbauersville, Pennsylvania, has been family owned since 1950 and employs 170 people.

Situation:

To survive and thrive in today's global marketplace, Bracalente Manufacturing needed to maintain customer satisfaction levels and repeat business by utilizing lean principles to boost continuous improvements, product reliability, and on-time shipments, while maintaining its pricing competitiveness. The company contacted the Manufacturers Resource Center (MRC), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for assistance.

Solution:

MRC created the Lean6™ Manufacturing Certification Program to assist companies with the challenge of implementing and maintaining improvements in Lean Manufacturing. This proven methodology includes a series of training modules designed to provide targeted technical competencies in Lean Manufacturing. The MRC Lean6 team conducted multiple continuous improvement events which included a set-up reduction program, value stream mapping, establishing a 5S event, employee training and involvement, set-up carts with pre-tooling, shadow boards, and created part families.

Results:

- * Reduced set-up times for all machines by 46 percent.
- * Reduced set-up times for part family machines by 67 percent.
- * Increased productivity overall by 12 percent.
- * Reduced days to process an order by 35 percent.
- * Reduced total cost of quality by 42 percent.
- * Reduced controllable costs by 18 percent.

Testimonial:

"We have relied on the MRC to help communicate, train, implement and sustain our continuous improvement efforts. With their expertise, we were able to implement the training quickly, involve all levels of employees, and see the results of our efforts quickly. We continue to rely on the MRC for training and empowering our employees."

Ken Kratz, Vice President

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